

## Jacqueline of Golden River

The Romance of a Mystery Trail  
That Begins at Madison Square

By Victor Rousseau

(Continued)

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## Can You Beat It?

By Maurice Kotten



## A Soldier of the Legion

By C. N. and A. M. WILLIAMSON

He looked on steadily at me and seemed to waver.

"What have you come for?" he asked. "Have you not had money enough? Do you want more?"

"Jacqueline!" I called out to an adventurer who was standing near the door. "I have brought you some money from home. You were as good as dead. Only a few minutes ago you said you loved me; that you would never send me away until I wished to go. What is it that has happened to change you?"

"I had her in my arms," she answered, "and I let her go."

"How dare you, monster!" she cried. "Go at once, or I shall call for aid!"

"I went into the passage, and as I left the room I could still hear the bellish click of the ivory ball in the roulette wheel. I was utterly confounded."

But before I reached the end of the little hall Jacqueline came running back to me.

"Monster!" she gasped. "M. Paul! For the sake of—what I once thought you, I do not want you to see me. You are in dreadful danger. Come back!"

"No, madame," I answered, trying to restrain my anger from her face. "I am full of fear, and I know it was fear of the man below, not me."

"Then for the sake of our love, Paul!" she begged. "I suffered her to lead me back into the room. In truth, I was in no hurry to go. As she drew me back and closed the door behind me, I heard the footsteps pause and turn along the corridor."

I heard Leroux tramp in and his voice mingling with the click-click of the roulette wheel. "Who is here?" he demanded.

"I am," answered Jacqueline.

"I thought I heard Leroux," said Leroux quickly.

"I have not seen M. Leroux today," Jacqueline returned.

"Maudlin!" he burst out, excitedly. "Where is d'Epernay? I am tired of waiting for him!"

"I have told you many times that I do not know," answered Jacqueline. "Where is d'Epernay? I am tired of waiting for him!"

"How long will you keep up this pretense, madame?" cried Leroux angrily. "I shall have you to gain by concealing the knowledge of your husband from me?"

"M. Leroux, why will you not believe that I remember nothing?" answered Jacqueline.

"Come, madame, why do you not play fair with me?" he asked. "Who is this man Hewlett, and why did he come to see you? He is not your husband. Before God, I know your husband and he has been plotting with Tom Carson against me, but why should that interest you? If it is my power I cannot understand."

"Ah, you have spoken of a Tom Carson many times," said Jacqueline. "Now, monsieur, I shall begin to believe that such a person really exists."

"Tell me where you met Hewlett."

"I tell you for the last time, monsieur," she said. "I do not know him. But what I do remember I shall tell you. After my father had turned M. Louis d'Epernay out of his home, whether in desperation I thrust a gold-piece upon one of the numbers at the head of a column. The wheel stopped, and the ball rolled into one of its compartments. The old man thrust several gold pieces toward me."

I started back in haste and re-entered the tunnel again, striking a match every few seconds, lighting each by its predecessor.

I had been traveling back for about ten minutes when I noticed at my feet the charred stump of a match that I had thrown away some time before. Presently I began to hear a murmur of water in the distance, and then a faint flicker of light. The ground began to grow softer, and now I was treading upon ooze and mud instead of rock.

The murmur increased in a sonorous crescendo until the full cadence of the mighty waterfall burst on my ears. A fiery ball seemed to fill the exit. The red sun, barred with bands of coal-black cloud, was dipping into the farther verge of the lake.

The thunder of the cataracts filled my ears. A blue spray, like a garment of filmy silk, obscured my clearer vision, but through and beyond it, between two torrents that sailed above like crystal bows, I saw the chateau before me.

I had passed right through the hollow heart of those mighty hills and now stood underneath the huge glaciers, with its million tons of ice above me.

I came upon a door in the dark wing and, turning the handle noiselessly, found myself inside the chateau. And at once my ears were filled with yells and coarse laughter, in men's and women's voices. Beyond I saw through the gloom of the hallways an open door. I crept toward it and peeped in. I saw a great room where several people were dining. Simon Leroux stood near him.

I crept back to the door and, retracing my journey along the corridor, began to ascend the stairs.

And in a few moments I looked into a room where a man sat writing. He looked up at me out of a great room in readiness to receive me. He was a man of middle age, with a high forehead and a large nose. He was wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a high collar. He was looking at me with a steady gaze.

"You are welcome, monsieur," he said. "Half past eight, I believe. Do you wish to stake a few pieces in a game with me?"

"You see, monsieur, I have a system," he went on eagerly.

"M. Duchaine!" I shouted in my ear. "Where is your daughter?"

"My daughter?" he repeated in mild surprise. "Ah, yes; she has gone to New York to make our fortune with the system. You see, she has taken away my system, and so I am not sure whether I can beat you. But make your play, monsieur. There was at least no indiscretion in the manner in which he set the wheel spinning."

I did not know what to do. I was

CHAPTER XII.  
Won and Lost.

WE must have stood confronting each other for fully a minute. Then Leroux dropped his hands and smiled sourly at me.

"You seem—temporarily—to have the advantage of me, M. Hewlett," he said. "I respect your pertinacity, and now at last I am content in having discovered the motive of your enterprise. I thought you were hired by Carson. If you had been frank with me we might have come to an understanding long ago."

"You may leave us, M. d'Epernay," he said to Jacqueline.

"I thank you for your consideration, M. Leroux," replied Jacqueline, and she quietly left the room.

Leroux sat down heavily.

"I will put down my cards," he said. "I have you here in my power. You only desire, then, was to get the money you knew she was carrying with her? How did you know that she was carrying that money?"

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"I have never seen the man," I replied.

Leroux glanced incredulously at me.

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